Collusion of forest guards and villagers in sanctuaries of Rajasthan

4713. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Kela Devi sanctuary in the North and Sawai Man Singh in the South of Ranthambhore are real "death traps" and whenever tigers move in those forests, their survival chances are practically nil;

(b) if so, whether any cases have come to the notice of the authorities where deaths, either due to natural causes or through poaching etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(d) whether it is a fact that hundreds of villagers enter the National Park at Ranthambhore to collect wood and grass with the collusion of forest guards, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The State has reported that the degree of protection in Keladevi & Sawai Mansingh Sanctuaries is less as compared to the Ranthambhore National Park, apart from the fact that biotic interferences in both these sanctuaries are very high, which reduces the chances of survival of tiger. Tigers from the Ranthambhore National Park do move to areas of Sawai Mansingh & Keladevi Sanctuaries, however, there is no evidence of tiger deaths in these sanctuaries in the last three years.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) It is true during monsoon villagers try to enter the Ranthambhore National Park along with their cattle and there is an ongoing struggle between villagers and park authorities on this issue. Due to continuous efforts of Park authorities, district administration and Police, the problem of wood and grass collection has been reduced. However no case of collusion of forest staff has been reported.

Forest security scheme

†4714. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.